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SUBJECT: Preparing for Sierra Leone's 2012 Elections

1. (U) Embassy has begun a series of meetings aimed at determining what needs to be done to ensure that Sierra Leone's 2012 elections comes off smoothly and honestly. We are trying to see what, if anything, the US might do to help that process. Post would welcome any guidance from the Department as well as from USAID West Africa regional office in Accra.

(2) (U) Last week we met with a representative of IFES. Today (2/25) we are scheduled to meet with Roland Ade Caesar, head of Political Parties Registration Commission. A meeting is also scheduled for March 1 with the UN Needs Assessment Mission on the 2012 elections which is spending a week here. We then expect to see the head of the National Election Commission shortly after she returns to Sierra Leone on March 8.

(3) (U) Anything to be done should be in place by next year.  
CHESHES